REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended herein is respectfully requested. Claims 5-12 have been cancelled. Claims 13-20 have been added. Thus, claims 1-4 and 13-20 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action has rejected claims 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Japanese document no. 8-99181. Claims 5-6 have been cancelled, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action has rejected claims 7 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Japanese document no. 8-99181 in view of Matuschek. Claims 7 and 12 have been cancelled, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

The Office Action has rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Japanese document no. 8-99181 in view of Matuschek and Ohmi. Claim 11 has been cancelled, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Claim Objections

The Office Action has objected to claims 8-10 for being dependant upon a rejected base claim. Claims 8-10 have been cancelled, thereby rendering these claim objections moot.

New Claims

Applicant has amended the application to include new claims 13-20. Applicant respectfully points out that claims 13-15 all include limitations the Examiner recognized were not taught by the prior art, including "controlling means" and "rewriting means". The same is true for claim 16, which depends from claims 13-15.

Claim 17 includes "a means for extracting the data from the memory in accordance with the received data request signal", which Applicant respectfully submits is disclosed in the prior art. The same is true for claims 18 and 19, which depend from claim 17.

Claim 20 includes "a charging means for charging the electricity storage means by utilizing a portion of welding current supplied through the secondary side of the resistance-welding machine", which the Examiner recognized is not taught by the prior art.

Applicant acknowledges allowance of claims 1-4.

Applicant acknowledges the reference to Japanese document no. 10-305366. No comment is deemed necessary at this time.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (650) 614-7400. If additional fees are needed, the Office is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 15-0665.

Respectfully submitted,

ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE LLP

Dated: November 24, 2004

By:

Reg. No. 35,287

Four Park Plaza, Suite 1600 Irvine, California 92614-2558 (650) 614-7660